



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Health Administration  
Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System

# Press Release

March 12, 2020

Contact: Phil Walls  
Office: 504-507-7559  
Cell: 504-605-8675  
phillip.walls@va.gov

## VA Taking Extra Precautions for COVID-19

While the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) still considers COVID-19 to be a low threat to the general American public, the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System is paying special attention to it.

As part of this process, everyone who enters the campus will be pre-screened. This may lengthen entry times, so patients are advised to allow for that when arriving for their appointments.

Southeast Louisiana Veterans who are concerned they may have symptoms of COVID-19, flu or cold should contact us at 1-800-935-8387 (select option 3) before coming to their medical center or clinic. Clinical staff are available to provide 24/7 virtual care and support, including nurse advice and triage. This service is available at no cost to Veterans enrolled for VA health care.

The Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System also includes the Veterans medical center in New Orleans and following outpatient clinics:

- Baton Rouge Community Outpatient Clinic
- Bogalusa Community Outpatient Clinic
- Franklin Community Outpatient Clinic
- Hammond Community Outpatient Clinic
- Houma Community Outpatient Clinic
- Slidell Community Outpatient Clinic
- St. John Community Outpatient Clinic

Additionally, access to our Community Living Centers (VA nursing homes) is now strictly monitored to protect patients deemed more vulnerable and at higher risk. Learn more about VA's announcement [here](#).

Aside from the operational changes noted, the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System remains fully operational. Veterans with scheduled appointments should plan to attend and complete appointments as they normally would while considering extra time needed for screening.

The Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System understands these actions may be inconvenient to some, however, these commonsense measures will help protect those who trust VA for their care and the employees that provide that care. For more information about COVID-19 visit the CDC Coronavirus Disease 2019 website.